

28 2013



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Should we fight alcohol?

A lot of non-Baptists (and Baptists, for that matter) think that our long-standing opposition to the recreational use of alcohol in any form is rather quaint, if not amusing. We've all heard the tired old jokes about Baptists staggering to the polls to vote dry — and yes, there are Baptists who imbibe. No argument there.

The conduct of individual Baptists notwithstanding, we have always stood together against the bloody stain of alcohol that continues to be smeared across our state and nation. Virtually every family in Mississippi has been negatively affected in some way by misuse of this dangerous drug. It is powerfully addictive, cheap, and available almost everywhere just for the asking.

Rarely does a day go by that someone in our state is not killed or permanently maimed by a drunk driver. The Mississippi State Penitentiary is filled with people who were raised in dysfunctional families controlled by alcohol's cruel hand. Corporate alcohol pushers spend billions in expansive advertising and promotions to get us to consume even more of their poison, all the while escaping the consequences of their actions through public relations and political connections.

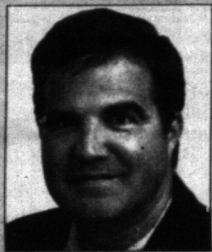
Yet our culture doesn't take us seriously when we argue against alcohol use, even when we quote the grim statistics. However, more authoritative evidence is stacking up that we are on the side of right.

A conclusive study headed by Timothy Naimi, who holds both doctor of medicine and master of public health degrees and is a professor in the Department of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, clearly spells out the health dangers of even moderate use of alcohol.

According to a summary authored by Boston internist Jeff Jenks on the medical school's web site, Naimi and colleagues

from the National Cancer Institute, the Alcohol Research Group, Public Health Institute, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, examined recent data from the U.S. on alcohol consumption and cancer mortality.

They found that alcohol resulted in approximately 20,000 cancer deaths annually, ac-



NAIMI

counting for about 3.5% of all cancer deaths in the U.S. That's in addition to all the other alcoholic mayhem that ends in death, such as medical problems not associated with cancer, automobile accidents, injuries from operating dangerous machinery, and taking unrealistic risks while drunk.

Their findings, published in the April 2013 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, lead them to conclude that bringing down alcohol consumption in the U.S. should be an important cancer prevention strategy since alcohol is known to cause cancer even when used small amounts.

How small an amount? The study points out that while higher levels of alcohol consumption naturally lead to a greater cancer risk, average consumption of 1.5 drinks per day or less totaled 30% of all cancer deaths attributed to alcohol.

"The relationship between alcohol and cancer is strong, but is not widely appreciated by the public and remains under-emphasized even by physicians," said Naimi in the Jenks report. "Alcohol is a big preventable cancer risk factor that has been hiding in plain sight."

Our society is awash with people who have been crippled psychologically, socially, and physically by alcohol. We already knew the health effects were equally grave, and now we can add another killer to the long list of problems created by alcohol.

When it comes to alcohol consumption, it looks like we're right after all. Don't give up the fight.

The inevitable seasons of waiting

There are times when it seems like I'm sitting on the sidelines, waiting for some divine revelation to make sense of it all. Maybe you've been there too, asking God, "Where do I go from here? What's the next step? Is this ever going to change?"

Sometimes we feel stuck waiting for the answer, or perhaps we've convinced ourselves that we have the answer but God doesn't seem to be on the same page. The solution is seemingly right there, but for whatever reason you've been given what seems like a joy-stealing restriction or another closed door and you're left wondering whether God really is the caring, involved Father that He says He is.

In fact, one biblical woman shows us that how we wait for God is just as important as what we're waiting for Him to do. Hannah had wanted just one thing from the Lord — a son. After enduring years of being reproached in her society, ridiculed by the child-bearing second wife, and perhaps feeling forgotten by God, she pleaded with the Lord: "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life" (1 Samuel 1:11).

She prayed, wept, and poured out her soul. Then, without any guarantee that the Lord would even fulfill her longing, Hannah got up and "her face was no longer sad" (v. 16). She trusted the heart of God even before she knew His answer. She had surrendered herself to whatever He had in store.

What's even more striking about Hannah's request was her focus. In the deepest cry of her heart, her focus was still not on her own happiness. She had already determined that, should God give her the one blessing she wanted, she wouldn't hold onto it for herself. Hannah vowed that if the Lord gave her a son — the one thing in this life that she wanted — she would give that son back to the Lord, dedicating him to His service.

Perhaps we can learn something from this woman in waiting. Hannah surrendered to trusting the will and timing of God, even if it meant giving back the very blessing she'd hoped for all these years. God did give Hannah a son (1 Samuel 1:20), and Hannah gave her son back to God (1 Samuel 1:28).

It was only when she determined to give God glory in whatever He chose to give her



Guest opinion

with Katie McCoy

that she was finally blessed with it.

It's true that we don't have any guarantee that our specific request will be given, but perhaps what Hannah's story would teach us today is that when we pursue God for who He is more than for what He can do, our waiting seasons don't have to be miserable. When we rest in the truth that the same God who ordered our steps (Psalm 37:23) is our loving Father who wants only our good, and gives only good things to His children (Matthew 7:11), then our seasons of waiting can become times of expectant hope.

What do you find yourself waiting on today? Sure, you could jump into the convenient, quick-fix solution, tired of feeling restricted and like you're on the outside looking in, but God has promised that He is good to those who wait for Him (Psalm 27:14) and that if you're called according to His purpose, He will work all things together for your good (Romans 8:28).

He has only good in mind for you! Even more, the Lord has already promised that He will fulfill His purpose for you (Psalm 138:8) and that none of those who wait for the Lord will be ashamed (Psalm 25:3). Will you trust His kind intentions for you, even when it feels like you've been forgotten? Will you wait for Him to act when it seems like you'll never see the results? "For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!" (Isaiah 64:4).

Will you wait on the Lord in your waiting season?

McCoy is the editor of *BiblicalWoman.com* and is pursuing a Ph.D. in systematic theology at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. This column first appeared at *BiblicalWoman.org*, a blog of Southwestern Seminary, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

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True Love waits marks 20th anniversary

Sexual purity movement impacts teenagers across countries, generations

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — True Love Waits morphed from a nameless concept in coffee break conversations into a movement that, beginning in February 1993, steadily spread to teenagers across the country.

That month, 53 youth at Tulip Grove Church in Old Hickory, Tenn., committed themselves to sexual abstinence before marriage. In the 20 years since, millions of teenagers have followed suit, bringing abstinence to the national conversation and strengthening innumerable marriages before they ever began.

The grassroots movement calling teenagers to make commitments of purity celebrated its local-church anniversary with a True Love Waits-themed Disciple Now weekend Feb. 1-3 at the Nashville-area church where the first group of students made a True Love Waits pledge.

The pledge states, "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, cofounded the movement with then fellow-LifeWay employee Jimmy Hester while also serving as youth minister at Tulip Grove Church. During the 20th anniversary weekend at the church, Ross watched as a second generation pledged their purity before God.

"In several cases, I was speaking to teenagers who are the teenage children of those who made the first promises," Ross said, marveling at the wonder of leading those he knew as babies in the same commitment as their parents to wait for their future mate.

Susan Fitzgerald Bohannon was among that first group of students making True Love Waits commitments at Tulip Grove Church. Now married and the mother of three, Bohannon noted that the movement that began when she was a teenager has reached beyond her Tennessee church to impact the lives of people across the world as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood with their purity intact.

"True Love Waits was not just for one generation of teens but every generation of teens," Bohannon said. "The children who are being born now will be teens one day, and it will be for them. It is not a movement that is relevant to only our culture or our ways, but [it is] an international, intergenerational and timeless movement."

International movement

Since its formation, True Love Waits has spread to more than 100 countries — something for which Ross said only God can receive the credit. "For a Supreme Being, this was no problem at all. The fact that the movement continues in its 20th year is a clear indication that it is empowered by the Spirit of God and not by some human ingenuity."

Ross said it was the Lord's hand that allowed the movement to spread beyond the walls of Tulip Grove. "We had virtually no funds for advertising to let people know about the movement, so God simply harnessed the entire news industry at zero cost."

"As I explained True Love Waits to Katie Couric on the Today Show, or as Oprah interviewed the teenagers on her show, that was more powerful than millions of dollars of advertising. Virtually every national news [outlet] or local news coverage carried stories about True Love Waits. You cannot explain that other than the Spirit of God."

The year 2014 will mark True Love Waits' 20th year as an outreach of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), which picked up the ministry as it gained momentum.

More than 100,000 teens' commitment cards were displayed at the 1994 SBC annual meeting in Orlando followed by a display of 200,000-plus commitments on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in July of that year.

Though a tally has never been kept of those who have made the True Love Waits pledge, a U.S. government study conducted three years after True Love Waits began found that three million teenagers had made a promise of purity. As the movement grew and expanded into other denominations and countries,



20 YEARS ON — Richard Ross, co-founder of True Love Waits and a professor at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, prays Feb. 3 with about 65 teenagers and their parents during a True Love Waits ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the ministry at Tulip Grove Church, the Nashville-area church where it all began. (BP photo courtesy of the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector)

Ross believes the number of commitments made to date reaches into the multimillions.

Positive results

In the 20 years of True Love Waits' existence, the United States has seen a decrease in teenage sexual activity. Before then, there had been 20 years of steady increases. In countries where the movement has spread, AIDS infection rates also have declined while the numbers continue to rise in other nations.

Copycat programs also sprang up along the way. For example, the Mississippi Department of Human Services created a secular version of the ministry, named it "Love Can Wait," and marketed it to the state's youth.

Part of the longevity of the movement can be traced to its leadership, which understands that effective teenage decisions must be heart-based and not fear-based.

"Teenagers live with a developmental characteristic called the myth of invulnerability," Ross said. "They really do not believe that bad things can happen to them, which means calling young people to abstinence and purity only to avoid negative consequences will never be effective."

"We have to give them much stronger and a much higher motivation," he said. "They really need to believe that they're committing the most intimate part of who they are for the glory of the King."

Glorifying Christ

Ross explained that while True Love Waits' focus always has transcended preventing sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies, it stretches beyond simply being an obedient Christian. The focus, Ross explained, is the glorification and magnification of Christ.

"In the past, True Love Waits young people have often made promises thinking, 'Jesus wants me to do this because it will make my life better, so bad things will not happen to me, so I will not be a disobedient Christian,'" Ross said.

"There is an element of truth in each of those statements, but I detect a shift [toward] 'Not that I do this so that my life will be better, but I choose purity for Christ's glory. I am doing this for His sake, not my sake. I am doing this because He deserves adoration, and the purity of my life is a way to show Him that adoration.' The focus comes off of 'me,' and the focus goes to 'Him.' There is no moralism. If I choose sexual purity for the glory of Christ, that is just pure worship."

Ross said he has seen that act of worship transfer into worship through marriage. "In scores of weddings over the past 20 years, brides and grooms have made slight changes to the wedding ceremony in order to celebrate promises they made as teenagers."

"For example, we know of True Love Waits rings that have

been melted down and have become part of wedding rings. We know of tattered True Love Waits cards that have been exchanged by brides and grooms after riding in a billfold or purse for many years."

"I have loved this for the joy it brought to the couple but also for the witness it is to the younger youth watching from the audience. They got to see the power of promises kept."

New generation

By the end of the Disciple Now weekend at Tulip Grove Church, 65 more teenagers made promises they pray to keep as well. Jeff Pratt, Tulip Grove's youth pastor, said the commitment service on Sunday was a great day for the church.

"It was awesome to see 65 teenagers kneeling before the altar, making commitments to purity and being led by Richard Ross. Richard has such a great legacy here at Tulip Grove and there could not have been a better person to lead us for our weekend."

"I am praying that this is the beginning of a new generation of students who will be committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ and will demonstrate that through their commitment to purity."

Parents, youth leaders, and students who want to learn more about True Love Waits, such as how to hold a commitment service in a local church or how to sign a commitment card online, can visit truelovewaits.com.

One of the things that got my attention was the fact that for every one hundred women who live to be 100, there are only about 20 men who reach



One of the things that I remember best about the environment was that there were probably a dozen of her family members that were there

Another common feature in most of the people who are in their hundreds is that they live in rural areas. Certainly, there are people in cities who live to be a hundred. But when I saw that was a fact that most of them shared, I thought about how good it is to live as the Psalmist might want us to remember where there are green pastures and still waters. While everyone cannot live on the family farm and enjoy the sweet rhythms of country life with the sounds of animals in the distance or a rooster close by to wake us up, it does seem to be a wonderful thing that is a contributor to long life when you do not have to live in the heated noise

In the main, they seem to be people who come to each sunrise with that kind of positive attitude and good heart that not only serves them well but blesses everybody around them. We may not live to be a hundred, but we can live this day seeking to serve our Lord and to at least find somebody who in word, thought, or deed we can bless and encourage. Just remember that when you lift them it lifts you.

The author can be contacted at
 jfutral@mbcb.org.

► **Donald (Don) I. Pouns, Brandon**, is available for pulpit supply, interim pastorate, revivals, meetings, and other conferences. He has been in the ministry 35 years and is a former resident of McComb. He is married to Diane Gonrich Pouns of Brandon. He can be reached at (601) 954-8140 or brodin2003@yahoo.com.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCLAIN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME, YOUTH MINISTER
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By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 21, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

SPRING 2013 Senior ADULT RALLIES

Tuesday, March 12, Monticello Baptist Church
Archie Herrin, 601-441-3954

Tuesday, March 19, Northcrest BC, Meridian
Buddy McElroy, 601-938-8668
(buddymcelroy@bellsouth.net)

Thursday, March 21, FBC, Biloxi
James Haynes, 228-396-8500
(amatheny@fbcbiloxi.org)

Monday, March 25, West Jackson Street, Tupelo
Jim Harrington, 662-256-8778
(monroe41@bellsouth.net)

Tuesday, March 26, First Baptist Church, Flora
Gil Powell, 601-879-8022
(gilpowell@flora.org)

Tuesday, April 9, First Baptist Church, Batesville
Barry Warrell, 662-226-5316
(barry@emmanuelbapt.org)

Thursday, April 11, First Baptist Church, Louisville
Billy Bowie, 662-773-6246
(billy@fbcloouisville.com)

Thursday, April 18, First Baptist Church, Natchez
Talmadge Smith, 601-835-6639
(tamandmollysmith@yahoo.com)

LifeWay Architecture

Compelling
environments
for ministry

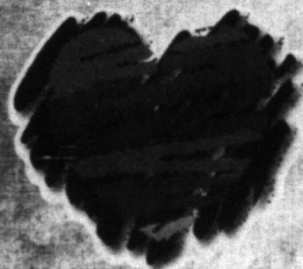
March 19, 2013
Skyroom, MBCB Baptist Building
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Provide key leaders with quality church facility information.
Registration requested. Please contact the Pastor/
Leadership Development Dept., 1-800-748-1651, ext.
305, 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton
10 a.m. Monday - 4 p.m. Tuesday
Registration is required.
For more information, contact Cathy Taylor, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or 601-292-3305
Pastor/Leadership Development Department

*Purse-only
Your Ministry*

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE
MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE**
APRIL 8-9, 2013
"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."
Romans 14:19 (ESV)



Ministry
from
the Heart

Together
for

Christ

March 22-23, 2013

**Church Library
Ministry Retreat**

**Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, Miss.**

8:30 a.m., March 22 - noon, March 23

For more information contact Judy Chen with the Communication Services Dept. of
the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at:
601-292-3378 or jchen@mbcb.org

STATE PREACHING CONFERENCE

April 22 — Mississippi College, Clinton

April 23 — Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

April 24 — William Carey University, Hattiesburg

Featured presenters at all locations:

Daniel Caldwell

Wayne VanHorn

Ronald Meeks

Alan Woodward

The book of Revelation — "Together for Christ"
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Keith Gordon for more information,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, or 601-292-3307.

Registration requested.

Pastor/Leadership Development Department

MISSIONS WEEKEND EVENT!

FOR ALL GIRLS
7TH-12TH
GRADES AND
THEIR LEADERS

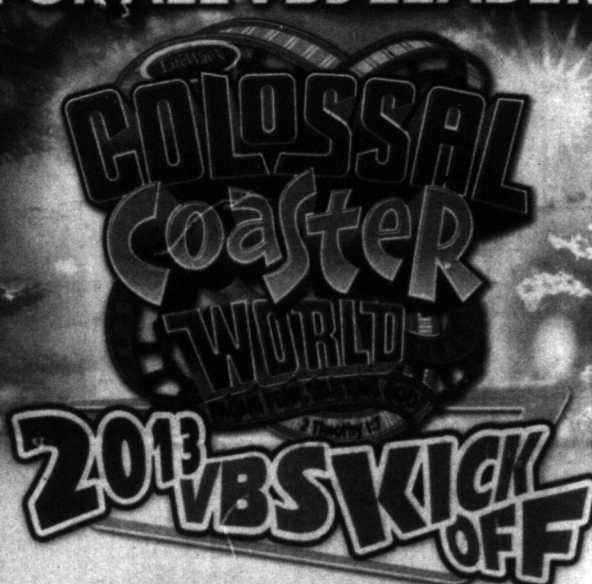
March 1-2, 2013
Ignite
GARAYWA CAMP &
CONFERENCE CENTER

Cost: \$58

(includes program fee, t-shirt,
meals, lodging in cabins)

Contact Tammy Anderson
601-292-3323 or tander@mbcb.org

FOR ALL VBS LEADERS



FEBRUARY 28, 2013

6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

LONGVIEW HEIGHTS
OLIVE BRANCH, MISS.

MARCH 2, 2013

9 A.M. - NOON

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
RICHLAND, MISS.

Learn how to challenge kids to face their fears and trust God as they zip along the roller coaster of life. Through every twist and turn, we'll examine how to help them live with a spirit of power, love, and sound judgement.

VBS materials will be on display and available to purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources.

An overview of LifeWay Curriculum, Worship Rally, Crafts, and Snacks

Training Sessions for Evangelism, Promotion, and Decorations

For more information contact Angie Boydston at aboystun@mbcb.org or Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org

or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205



6:30 - 9 p.m.

CONFERENCES

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks, Decorations
- Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt
- VBS planning help.

APRIL 15, 2013

Interstate Baptist Church
Shaw, Miss.

APRIL 16, 2013

Calvary Baptist Church
Batesville, Miss.

APRIL 18, 2013

First Baptist Church
Kosciusko, Miss.

APRIL 22, 2013

First Baptist Church
McComb, Miss.

APRIL 23, 2013

Crosspoint
Hattiesburg, Miss.

For more information contact Angie Boydston at aboystun@mbcb.org or Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205



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ride of a lifetime!

Preregister today
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2013 SENIOR DAY RETREATS

12:30-5:30 p.m.

"SENIORS – Heed how you hear the Word!"

Luke 8:18

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

May 21

Preacher:

Jim Futral, MBCB

FBC, Vicksburg

May 23

Preacher:

Argile Smith, Pineview, La.

FBC, Picayune

May 30

Preacher:

Clarence Cooper, Brandon BC

Registration Cost: \$5 at the door or one week before the registration date to receive the gift bag. **Mail Registration to: MBCB Conference Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530** or call Jo at **800-748-1651, ext. 292**

SINGLE ADULT SUMMIT

For Leaders/Sunday School Teachers/Ministers

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Golden Triangle Baptist Association
560 Willowbrook Road, Columbus**

**Renowned motivational speaker and author:
Moses Caesear, Texas
(Born in India)**

**Handouts and special door prizes included.
We will be glad to help with your gas expenses.**

**To make reservations for the meal contact:
662-328-6802 or
goldentriangleleba@bellsouth.net**

March 4, 2013

Agricola BC, Lucedale

9am – noon



Led by Alan Woodward, director of the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., and Slater Murphy, director of the Church Music Dept., MBCB

Registration requested. Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept., 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

**PASTORS AND WORSHIP LEADERS
2013 WORKSHOPS**

VISIT -A- CAMPUS

Going to college this fall?

**Have you considered calling
the Baptist Student Union?**

**We would like to be your first stop in helping you find
your way around!**

- Meet the BSU director
- Get helpful general information about the campus
- Learn about BSU opportunities
- Learn about area churches

**For contact info about
the campus you plan
to attend, go to our
Web site:
www.mbc.org/BSU**

**Collegiate Ministry
601.292.3299
800.687.2736**



Pray this day for...

February 22 – March 7, 2013

"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him..."

Hebrews 7:25

Pray for: **Richard* and Wanda Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy* and Cindy* DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through hospitality coordination and church/home evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas* and Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the Dominican Republic through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a volunteer from **Michael Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport**, traveling to Africa for pastor/leadership training, February 27 - March 6.

Pray for: **Alvin* and Mary Doyle**, IMB missionaries to European Peoples in Hungary through member care.

Pray for: **Donald* and Donna* Brown**, missionaries to European Peoples in Romania through church planting and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David and Pamela* Carlton**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a volunteer from **Bethel Baptist Church, Hazlehurst**, traveling to South Asia, March 1 - 16, to lead women's Bible studies.

Pray for: **Aaron* and Tiffany Epps**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert* and Margaret Fortenberry**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Botswana through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **David* and Gloria* Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through media consultation and promotion.

Pray for: **John* and Sonia* Grady**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a group of six from the **Tishomingo Association** going to Southeast Asia for evangelism, March 6 - 17.

Pray for a group of 14 from **First Baptist Church Corinth**, traveling to Montana for community service, March 7 - 11.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2013 SUMMER CAMP GARAYWA WWW.GARAYWA.ORG

Registration is now open
for 2013 summer camp sessions
and for Day Camp!

Missions Camp for Girls &
Missions Camp for Students

- \$165 per camper

Day Camp for Boys & Girls

- \$20 per camper per day

For more info:
please call Karen 601-924-7034
Registration available online.

www.garaywa.org



2013 Kids Camp

Camp I - June 24-26, 2013

Camp II - June 27-29, 2013

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.

Cost \$150

Camp fee includes: Lodging, meals,
activities, and T-shirt

Highlights

- Worship
- Church Bible Study
- Adventure Ropes Course
- Horseback Riding
- Archery/Riflery
- Swimming

Registration begins at 10 a.m. on the first day of camp.

Camp concludes with lunch on the last day of camp.

Registration begins February 1, 2013

For registration information contact the
MBCB Sunday School Department at
601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651 ext. 292.

Rayney Cottage
Fikes Gatewood Campus, Louisville, MS

Baptist Children's Village

TOGETHER FOR CHRIST
through
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSION SUPPORT

Mississippi Baptists are statewide advocates for Christian moral values as demonstrated by the Baptist Children's Village, Christian Action Commission, and the Baptist Medical centers in Jackson and north Mississippi. The Cooperative Program also provides protection services for minister's families and retirement assistance. Almost 8% of your Cooperative Program gifts are allocated for Compassionate Ministries like these.

HOUSE TOPS

Regulating Abortion Drug RU486 in Mississippi Legislature

The Women's Health Defense Act of 2013 or Senate Bill 2795, was sponsored by Sen. Angela Hill and co-sponsored by Senators Phillip Gandy, Billy Hudson, Tony Smith, and Chris McDaniel.

The original intent and scope of this bill was to require Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards only when a physician administers the drug RU486 for elective abortions (or for reasons other than to

save the life of the mother). RU486 is also popularly known as the "abortion pill," and Mississippi does not currently meet FDA standards for administering this drug for elective abortions.

Why is it important that doctors who perform these abortions in MS follow FDA guidelines for this drug?

First of all, the use and access of the "abortion pill" for elective abortions is on the rise and there is no reporting

requirement in MS to monitor the administration and adverse effect this drug is having on women. But more importantly, not only are innocent lives being destroyed by abortion-on-demand, but also the lives of women using this drug for elective abortions are at risk as well.

As of April 2011, 2,200 adverse events of the use of RU486 in abortions have been reported to the FDA. This includes 14 deaths, 612 hospitalizations, 339 required blood transfusions, and 256 infections with 48 being severe.

This bill does not support abortion, but it does, however, speak to the type of medical care women should receive who do have an abortion for reasons other than to save her life.

Pressure to weaken the bill was put on legislators by two groups of doctors. First, a group of MS OB-GYN doctors affiliated with the American Congress of Obstetricians and

Gynecologists (ACOG) who is an ardent supporter, activist, and promoter of abortion and friend of Planned Parenthood. They allegedly claim that this bill will restrict the use of these types of drugs for other (non-elective, abortive) purposes—to stop post-partum hemorrhaging, for example. This is not the case with this bill. The scope of the bill is elective abortions only and not for abortions or other medical reasons to save the life of the mother.

The MS Medical Association (MSMA) also wants to amend the bill, but their reported concern is about the "unintended consequences" that FDA regulations on abortion drugs for elective purposes "might possibly have" on other areas of their practice.

So, what is ethically more important, protecting women's lives who are actually at risk from abortion doctors prescribing this drug against FDA guidelines for elective

abortions OR safeguarding doctors (who don't perform elective abortions) because of a "possibility of unintended consequences"?

Another significant factor related to this bill is "telemed, or webcam, abortions." In this technological age, a woman can have access to a medical abortion using the "abortion pill" via the internet.

A telemed abortion is when a woman gets the abortion drug only after an internet based, webcam conversation with an abortion practitioner. These doctors may even be out-of-state. The pregnant woman is not required to have an in-person consultation with a doctor which the FDA recommends nor is there a requirement to have a follow-up with the doctor. The FDA recommends a consultation because of the dangerous effects and use that RU486 has had on women.

Abortion providers like Planned Parenthood practice "telemed" abortions, and this bill in its original form would make it illegal for Planned Parenthood in MS because it requires a physical, face-to-face consultation in the immediate presence of a physician.

Unfortunately, on Feb. 14, there was one amendment to the bill which removed the FDA guidelines for administering the drug RU486. Sen. Brice Wiggins (R) from Jackson County on the Gulf Coast offered this amendment at the request of the MS Medical Association (MSMA) and with the support of Sen. Dean Kirby (R) from Rankin Co.

There is still a possibility to strengthen this bill in the MS House and for both legislative bodies to work together to restore the original intent of the bill and to address valid concerns physicians who do not perform elective abortions may have.

To stay informed and to receive email updates on this and other legislation, go to www.ChristianAction.com and enter your email address at the bottom-center of the home page or call 601-292-3329.

Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or rhambers@christianaction.com.



with Rob Chambers

DO YOUR PART

"PRAY TO THE LORD OF
THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT
WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST."

MATTHEW 9:38

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STUDENT MINISTER: Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia, Alabama, is currently seeking a full-time student minister to work with 8th grade through college age students. Please send resume to Student Minister Search Committee, Southside Baptist Church, 1213 W. Bypass, Andalusia, AL 36420; 334-222-4300.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DECEMBER 6-15, 2012

MEMORIALS

Jimbo Locky
Terry & Cynthia McMahon
Kay Lofton
Barney & Paula Albritton
Cindy Long
Cassandra A. Russell
Bob Mahon
Mrs. Sondra Beck
Ruth Massingale
Twila Rowe
Roy Davis McCullar
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Marshall
Evelyn McIntosh
Larry & Pan Gnemi
Ray Charles McPhail
Lyn Scott
Laura Katherine Nutt
Patsy & Odie Smith
Jesse Oswalt
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Keaneth Parvin
Mrs. Jean Allgood
Donald Patterson
Twila Rawson
Talmadge Phelps
Tena Haskins
Laura Marie Prescott
Linda Campbell
Mrs. Lazelle Puckett
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Thomas Edwin Purvis
Kathy & Stanley Dellapenna
Mrs. Barbara Dean Quick
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Doris Reedy
Dennis E. Smith
Rev. & Mrs. Guy Reedy
The Spencer Reedy Family
Shelley Lynn Sandefur
Robert & Sharon Sandefur
Traci Sasser
Barney & Paula Albritton
Margaret Shoemaker
David F. Maron
Tammy Crawford
Patricia Cloer
Pamela Jacobus
Sarah Jordan
Janie Jenkins
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Bob Arentson
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Kathryn Mae Webster
Robert S. Crump
Lindsey C. Meador
Hollie R. Moore
Mrs. Bonnie West

Polagrove/Freeman
SSC, Parkway BC
Dustin White
Kolola Springs BC

DECEMBER 16-31, 2012
HONORS

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Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock
Robert Parker Adams
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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Alford
Miriam & Henry Riffin
Brennan & Elizabeth Anderson
Rev. & Mrs. Ken Anderson
David L. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Judy Anderson
Annis Goss
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Ray Bailey
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
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Grace McMillin
Mr. & Mrs. John Barkley
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Ken & Darlene Barron
Mr. & Mrs. Scotty Barron
Bud & Becky Bass
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Daughdrill
Wayne, Kathryn & Mary Ella Bass
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Daughdrill
Jeff & Leslie Beaton
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Sam & Cheryl Carruth
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Charles Catledge
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Mr. & Mrs. Ron D. Craddock
Lance & Judy Cleveland
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Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Mr. Thomas Cole
Steadfast SSC, FBC Charleston



The Interact Club from Madison Central High School donated Valentine goodie bags for The Baptist Children's Village residents on all seven campuses. The club under the leadership of Mrs. Laura Sue McClure has made this an annual project. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects which help students learn the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work and advancing international understanding and goodwill.



Ms. Venus Taylor, owner of Angels & More in Pearl, MS, donated several beautiful framed puzzles to be used as decor on our many campuses. These will be a lovely addition to our cottages.

Phillip & Kathy Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Sandy Colman
Annis Goss
Dwain & Ellen Cotton
Miss Sarah Marie Smith
Charles & Cathy Craig
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Frank, Karen & Samantha Creel
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Daughdrill
Dick & Pam David
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Jan Davidson
Susan Kinton
Dusty & Brittany Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay B. Lampton
Rev. & Mrs. Sterling Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag
Richard Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Toughy & Ship Dews

Bob & Jan Hammond
Mrs. Yvonne Evans
Mr. & Mrs. Kerby Evans
Bobby & Jo Fairburn
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Fairview BC
Lona Southerland
FBC McComb Staff
Steve, Patty & Josh Clark
FBC Summit Staff
Barney & Paula Albritton
Lee & Jan Feldman
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Britton & Anna Ferrell
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Atherton
Norman & Sharon Frangoules
Clark McNair
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Frye
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Goff
Dr. & Mrs. Albert S. Gooch

Pursuing Those Who Need to Hear • Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; 4: 1-11

It is hard to grasp that there are many people who claim to be Christians but do not believe that God desires for all people to have the opportunity to be saved. Many think that Christ is really just for people like them. Others live out this idea by taking a passive approach to being active in God's redemptive work in the world. Many try to justify their inactivity with excuses like not having the spiritual gift of witnessing, not being called, or just being too busy. Whatever reason Jonah had for not being willing to be God's messenger to the people of Nineveh was now long gone. Spending three days in the belly of a great fish had taken care of Jonah's excuses. He now finds himself hearing the same words from the Lord: "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you." (Jonah 3: 2)

All People have an Urgent Need (Jonah 3: 1-4)

Over and over again we see described in scripture the fundamental problem all people have in common. We all were lost, without the presence of God in our lives. The people of Nineveh were no different. They were lost and under the threat of God's judgment. God called Jonah to take His message of judgment and hope to them.

Why is it so important for us to actively participate in God's redemptive work? It is important because God desires for everyone to have an opportunity to know Him and His love. Those of us who already know God are given the responsibility to share His message, and when we do not do it, we are without excuse!

God Acts with Sovereign Mercy (Jonah 3: 5, 10)

Scripture tells us that Nineveh was a large city and it was "a three-day walk" (v.3)

for Jonah to cover the entire city. The message Jonah preached was that Nineveh would be overthrown in 40 days.

As Jonah preached, the response was overwhelming. The men, from the least to the greatest, believed in God. When the message reached the King, he took off his royal robe, dressed in sackcloth and sat in ashes. He declared a fast and ordered everyone to turn from their evil ways in the hope that

God would relent from destroying them. When God saw their actions, He responded to them with mercy and forgiveness. The reason we need to take the message of God to all people is displayed so vividly in this passage. If they repent and turn to God, He will forgive them because of His redemptive nature. God is not seeking to destroy! He is seeking to save anyone who responds to His love in repentance.

Salvation Isn't Just About Us (Jonah 4: 1-4)

Jonah's response to the redemptive actions of God toward Nineveh is not what we would have expected, especially after

spending three days in the belly of a great fish, crying out to God for another chance. Like most of us, Jonah falls prey to the "it's all about me" syndrome. Jonah became angry and prayed to God to let him die. In his prayer he uses the word "I" four times and the word "me" two times. (HCSB) How

often are we caught in the same trap as Jonah? For whatever reason, things do not go the way we want them to, and while we know the redemptive and merciful nature of God, we still become so self-centered. We, as God's people, should be overcome with joy that God would use us to help someone else have the same incredible experience of salvation.

Do We Care as God cares? (Jonah 4: 5-11)

The phrase "cannot distinguish between their right and their left" is used in Jonah 4: 11 to describe people who are confused and helpless. The lesson that shines through as the book of Jonah closes is how patient and persistent God is with Jonah. God provides Jonah with a plant to provide shade for him and then takes it away to show Jonah that He is the one who decided to show compassion on the people of Nineveh. Jonah had no right to be angry over the plant or His dealings with Nineveh. Our job is to be His witnesses to all people. What is it going to take for us to care for people as God does?

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education/Outreach at Brandon Church, Brandon.

The Reward of Endurance • 2 Timothy 1:1-2:26

Today we complete our study of the "five trustworthy sayings" found in the letters of Paul addressed to Timothy and Titus. Please remember that the Bible is filled with trustworthy sayings from cover to cover. We have focused our microscope on these two young pastors and the Holy Spirit-inspired counsel which flowed through the quill of Paul to them as they nurtured fledgling first century churches. All pastors (then and now) desperately need the counsel of trustworthy sayings found in scripture.

My maternal grandmother graduated from high school "...in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and twenty-six." She kept her class ring in a tattered box. Her class motto was "Rowing, Not Drifting." She lived that motto in every area of her life: in her marriage commitment, in her parental responsibility, in her store-keeping business and, most importantly, in her relationship to Jesus. Day after day, she shared Jesus with any and all who would watch her actions or hear her words. Her words and actions matched what she had been taught and come to believe about the Bible. She endured.

I have a copy of her neatly-printed May 1926 graduation invitation. Six names were listed as candidates for graduation. One name was scratched through with

a pencil marking. She said, "Well, that last week o' school, he got kicked out fer fightin'." I am certain that graduate wished he had endured.

Famous last words of people we cherish and respect hold deep meaning for us. Many believe that the second letter to Timothy would have been the last of the letters written by Paul. Imprisoned in Rome, the next sound of approaching footsteps could belong to his executioner. As you read this letter closely with that thought in mind, you can literally FEEL the passionate urgency of the words of Paul.

When we think about endurance in faith, we must begin with our past, examine our present and prepare for our future. Paul begins by recalling the faith of his own forefathers. He continues by reminding Timothy of the nurturing faith of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. He moves quickly to the intimate things he knows about Timothy, presenting special

instructions which will bolster him in all of his areas of weakness. Because of the presence of his own "thorn in the flesh," Paul was well aware of the delight of the enemy in exploiting weaknesses in order to destroy people and ministries. He wanted Timothy to avoid that trap.

Paul invited Timothy to join him in being willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel. He plugs Timothy into the power of the resurrection, which assures that death is defeated. No matter what happens to our bodies in this life, we can trust God.

Second Timothy 1:12 inspired these song lyrics: "For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that day." Daniel Webster Whittle penned the lyrics. A Union soldier, Whittle was wounded in the Battle of Vicksburg. He lost his right arm. While under arrest as a Confederate POW, Whittle read the New Testament. The Lord used that en-

counter to touch his soul and save his life. From AD64 (the year Paul lost his life) to AD1864 (the year Whittle lost his arm) and all the years before and since, God has been in the business of setting prisoners free and teaching them how to endure. This is war.

Paul reminds Timothy that there is a difference between sharing Christ with lost people and nurturing new believers through discipleship. What good is our heritage of faith unless we embrace it and perpetuate it by discovering ways to penetrate our culture? Paul encourages Timothy to invest himself in sharing this faith with others who have the same desire to nurture the next generation.

I think of endurance as the baton carrier in a relay race. Receive it. Guard it carefully. Run well with it. Then, at the last minute, with all the energy I can muster, I hold it forth and press it firmly into the hand of the next runner.

If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. The Greek word for "endure" is "hupo-meno" meaning "to abide (stand) under." So, what part of stand under do we not understand?

Brown is the staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

Bible Studies for Life

with Becky Brown



TORNADO

cont. from p. 1

members were currently in the Hattiesburg area conducting feeding operations, chainsaw operations, debris clearance, and blue tarp placement on damaged roofs.

The Mississippi Baptist churches in the Hattiesburg area are some of the best organized and trained units in the Task Force. They have been coordinat-

ing with us and have a number of teams in the field that are not included in that 75-count volunteer total," Gann said.

He estimated over 8,000 hot meals have been prepared by the Task Force as of the Feb. 18 evening meal. The feeding unit is operating on the campus of First Church, Petal, which was undamaged.

Among the associational disaster relief units that have been activated by the Task Force are

Calhoun, Copiah, Covington/Jefferson Davis, Gulf Coast, Jackson, Pearl River, and Yalobusha. Other units are on standby.

"We have also started looking to the future and planning for the rebuilding phase of the response," Gann said. "We'll need construction supplies, and construction personnel on a rotating basis, for an estimated six months."

For information on participating in the rebuilding phase, contact Carol Wright in the MBCB

Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting financial donations to assist the victims of the violent weather. Checks should be made payable to MBCB, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to

mail donations is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. On-line donations can be made at <http://mbcb.org/giving/>.

"In-kind" donations, such as food, clothing, or equipment, are not being accepted at this time.

In addition to donations, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force is supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Just for the Record



The Fannie Wilson Sunday School class of **WANILLA CHURCH, LAWRENCE COUNTY**, was treated to a Valentine's Night Out at Porches Restaurant in Wesson. The women, all senior widows, were escorted by other church members.



THE MISSION FRIENDS OF UNION CHURCH, PICAYUNE, recently participated in the Sweet Sleep Mission Project. Money raised will help provide nets, beds, and Bibles for children who need them. They raised over \$180. Mission Friends leaders are Tiffany Ladner and Sharon McAmis. Brian Tatum, pastor.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will host Squire Parsons in concert Mar. 8, 7 p.m. Love offering.

► **Providence Church, Jayess**, is hosting its 5th annual Great Commission Conference Mar. 2 - 3. Registration begins Saturday, 10 a.m. Free; door prizes;

complimentary lunch and dinner. KidzKingdom (ages 3 - 11) with guest illusionist Michael Cooper and puppeteer Lance Moak. Larry Leblanc, Brett Golson, Jim Futral, and Matt Powell, speakers; Randy Wood, worship leader; special music, The Smiths. Call (601) 833-3053 for more information, email PBCJayess@gmail.com.

► **Macedonia Church, Petal**, is hosting its 3rd annual wild game supper Feb. 23, 6 - 8 p.m. Free. Door prizes. Kaleb Miller, Jamie Bulger, and Hunter Bulger, speakers.

► **First Church, Lumberton**, is hosting the Florida Boys in concert Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Love offering.



FIRST CHURCH, GATTMAN, ordained Clady Renfro and Danny Scott as deacons. Shown are Renfro, pastor Bryan Richardson, Mike Todd, Robert Fowlkes, and Scott.



ROCK BLUFF CHURCH, RANKIN ASSOCIATION, ordained Todd Smith as deacon Feb. 10. Shown are Tommy Johnson, Smith, pastor Donnie Stuart, and Durwood Anderson.



FIRST CHURCH, WINONA, licensed Andrew Chesteen Feb. 10. Chesteen is a student at Blue Mountain College. Shown are Billy Chesteen, John Reuben Chesteen, Pam Chesteen, Chesteen, pastor Chris Aldridge, and Rhine Chesteen.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins

and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name. — John 1:12

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.